

A
SERIOUS ADDRESS
TO THE 75
Christian World:

OR, THE
Precious PROMISES of the Most High God,
to Repenting Sinners.

FOUND IN THE MANUSCRIPTS
OF THAT

Late Learned and Reverend Divine

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*For all the promises of God in him are Yea, and to him
Amen, unto the glory of God by us, 2 Cor. i. 20.*



G L A S G O W,
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READER,

I Here offer thee a few of those many exceeding great and precious promises, which the most high God has been graciously pleased to give us in his most holy word. They have often been in the hand of the divine Spirit, the means of delivering my soul out of trouble, and refreshing me when I was quite weary, and I trust will be my support even unto the end: and I doubt not but the same divine Spirit either has, or will, in his own good time, apply them with power to thy soul.

It is most certainly true, that the real Christian cannot stand in need of any one thing but what God has most solemnly engaged, by his sacred promises, to supply him with: and happy would it be for us all, if we did but set the same value upon the unchangeable promises of Jehovah, as rich men do upon the writings of their private estates; we should then treasure them up in our hearts as the choicest blessings, and be enabled to live above the tantalizing fears of what the devil, the world, or the flesh could do unto us. When the eye of faith is stedfastly fixed upon God's never-failing word and promise, in and through Jesus Christ, the believer marches boldly through the wilderness of this world, and fears none. Troubles and disappointments sit light and easy, for he knows that God will send him nothing but what is for his real good: but when he loses the sight of Christ in the promise, he then walks in heaviness, and cannot be at rest till the Sun of righteousness arises again upon his mind with healing in his wings. And that my Christian brethren may be helped on in their heavenly race, I have selected a few of those choice Cordials out of the book of God, to refresh them as they are going on their way to Zion. And that the blessed Spirits of God, who first gave us these precious promises, would apply them with power to every honest seeking soul, is the earnest prayer of

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one that wishes grace, mercy, and peace may rest on the whole Israel of God, now and evermore!

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence, he will come and save you," Isa. xxxv. 4. Whose words are these? Are they not the words of the most high God? And to whom are they spoken? To thee, my fearful, trembling brother. God himself bids thee not fear, but be strong in faith, for he will come with vengeance to destroy all thy enemies, and with a recompence, to save thee from the guilt and power of thy sins here, and from the eternal damnation due to them hereafter; therefore, be not faithless, but believing.

"Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Mat. xi. 28. What a glorious invitation is here, freely given by the God of heaven! Come ye that are loaded with guilt and misery, and accept this blessed invitation; bring all your heavy burdens with you to the feet of Jesus, for himself declares you shall find rest for your souls: do not attempt to ease yourselves, but do as Christ commands you, bring all your sins, be they ever so many, and depend upon it, Christ will give thee rest. Blessed be God for such a powerful-Saviour!

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint," Isa. xi. 31. What encouragements are here for all God's people to wait upon him in all the means of grace! The promise stands engaged, that our spiritual strength shall be renewed; that our hearts shall mount up to God with the wings of faith unfeigned, as an eagle mounts the air; that we shall run the way of his commandments with chearfulness and delight, and not be weary, and walk in the light of his reconciled countenance and never tire nor faint. May we all, that profess faith in Christ, thus be enabled to wait upon him, that this promise may be fulfilled to each of our souls!

"Fear thou not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed,

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ed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, yea I will help thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness," Isa. xli. 10. No less than three sacred promises in one short verse. What a condescending God is our God! And what a cursed powerful sin is unbelief! One would think it almost impossible for a man either to fear or be dismayed, who has such abundant consolations as these to support him; yet experience daily shews us, though God declares, He will strengthen, help and support us, yet we often give him the lie by disbelieving his word. May God remove this injurious bar out of the hearts of all his people, for his mercy's sake!

"When the poor and needy seek water, and find none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Jacob will not forsake them," Isa. xli. 17. When the poor needy sinner begins to thirst and pant for the waters of life, and knows not where to find them, the Lord himself says, he will hear that soul, and not only hear him, but will abundantly supply him, and will not forsake him. Happy are the people that are in such a case; yea blessed are the people who have the Lord for their God!

"But now, thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee! I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I shall be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest thro' the fire, thou shalt not be burnt; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee," Isa. xliii. 1, 2. Let the poor believer's afflictions be ever so dreadful, whether of a temporal or spiritual nature, let him remember, that no less a person than the most high God himself, that God who has redeemed him with his most precious blood, stands engaged, by these precious promises, to bring him safe thro' all. Away then, away unbelief, and never dare to lift up thy head more. May the Lord be pleased to give all his children power to trample it under their feet, from this time forth, and for evermore!

"And

“And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked; and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible one,” Jer. xv. 21. Rejoice, O believer, in thy God! let men or devils themselves do their worst, thy God, whom thou serveest, will deliver thee from them all. Blessed be God for his precious promises!

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet I will never forget thee,” Isa. xlix. 15. What a comfortable scripture is this! We are here assured that our heavenly Father loves his poor believing children, with a greater love than a tender mother does her sucking child; and though we often, too often forget our God, yet, blessed be his great name, he never, never forgets us. May his divine Spirit humble our souls in the dust for our great neglect of him, and keep us for the future more closely united to him, for his great name and mercy's sake!

“For he [that is, God] hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee,” Heb. xiii. 5. And hath God said it, and will he not do it? That be far from God; and let all mistrustful thoughts be far from us; let us be found in the diligent use of all the means of grace, and though our comfortable frames may leave us, and we may be often in heaviness through manifold temptations, yet let us be assured that God will fulfil his word, and never leave us nor forsake us, but will bring us in his own good time safe to glory.

“But my God shall supply all your need, according to his riches in glory, by Christ Jesus,” Phil. iv. 19. Let the believer's wants be what they will, ever so great or ever so numerous, whether they relate to the things of this life, or of that which is to come, here the Almighty engages himself to supply them all, as far as it is needful and convenient for us, and all through his dear Son Jesus Christ. May God teach us all to know our real wants, and how to apply for relief in a proper manner.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life, and they

they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand," John x. 27, 28. What encouragement is here for the sheep of Christ's pasture? Christ knows every one of them, he publicly owns them, for he says, "they are my sheep; and for their safety, for comfort, and support, he gives to every one of them — What? a life that shall be taken from them? a life that they shall lose by sinning against him, or by back-sliding, or by not being faithful to grace given? No, my brethren, Christ does not give life to-day that may be lost to-morrow: the life that Christ gives his sheep, is a life worthy of God to give; it is eternal life; life that lasts for evermore. Happy the souls that partake of this divine life! Christ himself declares, you shall never perish, neither shall any pluck you out of his hand. And has not Christ all power in heaven and in earth? Surely then he is both able and willing to fulfil his word. What can men do? what can sin, or the devil himself with all his might do? Their power, when compared to the power and faithfulness of our incarnate God, will vanish away like smoke. Therefore, my Christian friend, whenever thou art assaulted by the devil, or by unbelief; whenever thou findest doubts and fears arise in thy mind, whether thou shalt be able to hold out to the end, draw out this sword of the Spirit, this blessed word of God, and all thy spiritual enemies will fly before thee. Tho' all the hosts of hell were to attack thee, yet if thou canst but hold up this scripture, thou shalt not only be conqueror, but more than conqueror over them all. O blessed word of God! may it be wrote upon the table of every believer's heart, then shall we be enabled with triumph to say, Blessed be God for such a powerful Saviour!

"I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee," Jer. xxxi. 3. Such is the amazing goodness and loving-kindness of our God, that he has loved his chosen ones with an everlasting love; and we may be sure of this for our comfort, for God himself has told us, that he is "the unchangeable Jehovah, the same almighty God, yesterday,

yesterday, to-day, and for ever; that with him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." How should this precious scripture strengthen and confirm our faith, and draw our souls out in love to God? Did God love us from everlasting? Then will he draw us to love him here in time, and hereafter to all eternity.

"For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee," Isa. liv. 10. The Almighty here gives us a glorious and a very comfortable promise; it is so full that all eternity will not be able to empty it. After God has promised that he will cause all the mountains and hills of all our guilt, the mountains and hills of all our unbelief, of all our ingratitude, of all our self-righteousness, and of all our abominations to depart from us. It would have been amazing goodness in God, if he had only saved us from our sins, and the damnation we justly deserve; but God not only saves us from hell, but he will give every one, that truly believes in his beloved Son Jesus Christ, a never-fading crown of glory. O the marvellous, stupendous loving-kindness of our God, that will never, never, never depart from his people, but will continue with them, not only through time, but through the endless ages of a never-ending eternity!

And now, my Christian brethren, what return shall we make unto the Lord for all his amazing benefits, and for all his precious promises he has freely given us in his beloved Son Christ Jesus? Let us receive the cup of salvation, and be continually praising the name of the Lord; let us give up ourselves entirely to his service while we are here below, that when this life is ended, we may dwell with him in the realms of bliss and happiness in that world which is to come. But perhaps these lines may fall into the hands of some who know nothing about the promises of God, and have no desire after such things: if thou, who art now reading these lines, should be one of that unhappy number, I have a word or two for thee, and then I have done.

Stand

Stand forth, man or woman, and hear what the Lord God will say concerning thee. I have a most awful message to deliver to thee : it is a message from the most high God himself : and he positively declares, that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven. Thou art an unrighteous person ; thou knowest nothing of having an interest in the Son of God, neither hast thou any desire about it, and so long as thou continuest so, instead of having any share in the rich promises of God, thou art liable to all the woes, curses and threatenings that are written in God's book : and if thou shouldest die in this condition, thou must endure the torments of hell-fire for ever and ever.

O sinner ! think on these things before it be too late ; and may the almighty God alarm thy stupid, senseless soul, and impress a deep sense of thy great danger upon thy mind and conscience, that thou mayest be stirred up earnestly to seek an interest in the blood of the everlasting covenant : and if God should be pleased to bestow an inestimable blessing upon thee, thou wilt then become a new creature ; thou wilt be amazed to see what danger the Lord has delivered thee from ; thy life will then be spent, not as it now is, in the service of the world, the flesh and the devil, but in the service of that dear Redeemer who was once crucified for lost sinners : thou wilt love all the ordinances of God, and the people of God : thou wilt love to be employed in the service of God all the remaining days of thy life ; and when thy warfare is ended, thou wilt be employed, together with all the saints, in singing the Redeemer's praises for ever and ever.

That this may prove thy happy lot, is the fervent prayer of

Thy Friend and Servant,

EBENEZER ERSKINE.

F I N I S.